

I am a professor teaching my students about the power of the media and their importance to democracy. Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation, and the threat it poses to democratic debate. Because Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, it is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

This is a perfect example of why we must regulate use of the airwaves and do so in favor of the public interest not private owners. The license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.

Sincerely,

V. S. Peterson
Professor of Political Science
University of Arizona